

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-09 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-14

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 RSR-01 /223 W

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R 190915 Z MAR 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8345

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, FAO, CN, US

SUBJECT: GATT STANDARDS CODE AND CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

1. SEVERAL DELS AND GATT SECRETARIAT HAVE CALLED ATTENTION OF US REP (KELLY) TO GATT WG III MEETING ON STANDARDS CODE TO REPORT OF 9 TH SESSION, CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, HELD IN ROME, NOVEMBER 6-17, 1972. REPORT INDICATES THAT US DEL SUPPORTED A CANADIAN STATEMENT THAT PROVISIONS OF PROPOSED GATT CODE " WERE NOT APPROPRIATE TO FOOD LAWS OF A MANDATORY NATURE."

2. PARA 88 OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION REPORT READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

PROPOSED GATT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PREVENTING BARRIERS TO TRADE. THE DELEGATION OF CANADA DREW THE ATTENTION
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OF THE COMMISSION TO THE PROPOSED CODE OF CONDUCT WHICH, AS AT PRESENT DRAFTED, DID NOT EXCLUDE FOODS SUBJECT TO FOOD STANDARDS. IN ITS VIEW, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE USA, THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED CODE WERE NOT APPROPRIATE TO FOOD LAWS OF A MANDATORY NATURE. THE COMMISSION ASKED THE SECRETARIAT TO BRING THE WORK OF THE CODEX TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GATT SECRETARIAT IN ORDER THAT THE NECESSARY STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE CODE DID NOT IN ANY WAY PREJUDICE THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION OR OF ITS MEMBERS IN THE ELABORATION OF FOOD LAWS. IT ASKED THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO KEEP THE MATTER UNDER REVIEW. END QUOTE

3. US POSITION ON GATT STANDARDS CODE, CLEARED BY TSC, IS THAT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE COVERED. ALL DELS, INCLUDING EC, HAVE WORKED ON ASSUMPTION THAT CODE WILL COVER BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. IN FACT, WORK OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS HAS BEEN OFTEN CITED AS EXAMPLE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ACTIVITY THAT GATT CODE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE.

4. CANADIAN REP (DOUGLAS) AND CHAIRMAN (EASTHAM) WG III TOLD US REP THAT LACK OF COORDINATION IN OTTAWA LED TO UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT BY CANADIAN DEL AT CODEX ALIMENTARIUS MEETING AND THAT THIS PROBLEM NOW REMEDIED.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE EXPLANATION OF VIEW ATTRIBUTED TO USDEL AT CODEX ALIMENTARIUS MEETING. REPLY NEEDED BY MARCH 22. RIMESTAD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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